

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-15 USIE-00 IO-13 DODE-00

AGR-20 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 IGA-02 PA-03

PRS-01 L-03 DRC-01 /191 W

----- 063240

O R 111724Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3100

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

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AF DROUGHT

AIDAC: YAOUNDE, NIAMEY, DAKAR FOR RDI'S; OUAGADOUGOU FOR
DAA WILLIAMS AND FOR SPENCER; ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MEETING SEPT 10 WITH JEAN AUDIBERT, CHIEF OF FINANCING,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS/COOPERATION

REF: A) PARIS 23643; B) PARIS 23885; C) HELMAN TELCON WITH
MARTIN, USEC BRUSSELS; D) STATE 179685.

SUMMARY: AUDIBERT WAS WARMLY DISPOSED TO RECEIVING SAHEL
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TASK FORCE; PROPOSED FAC TAKE INITIATIVE IN ARRANGING

BRIEFINGS FOR TEAM ON COUNTRY BY COUNTRY BASIS. RE MIT LONG TERM STUDY, AUDIBERT WAS SUPPOSED BY ITS DIMENSIONS AND EXPRESSED DESIRE TO REFLECT UPON IMPLICATIONS AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS WITH PUSSANT. END SUMMARY.

1. AUDIBERT WELCOMED PARIS VISIT BY SEHEL TASK FORCE AND INDICATED IT WULD BE HIS PREFERENCE TO TAKE INITIATIVE, WHEN TEAM'S ITINERARY KNOWN, TO ARRANGE FOR COUNTRY BY COUNTRY BRIEFINGS ORGANIZED BY FAC. SCOPE OF WORK FOR TASK FORCE WAS THOROUGHLY AIRED AND AUDIBERT SHOWED CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF TEAM'S PURPOSE AND INFORMATION NEEDS. DEFINITE PREFERENCE EXPRESSED FOR COUNTRY BY COUNTRY RATHER THAN SECTOR ORIENTATED BRIEFINGS AS AUDIBERT FELT BETTER DETAIL AND MORE INTEGRATED PRESENTATION COULD BE MADE AND THAT THIS WOULD RESPOND MORE COSELY TO NEEDS OF TASK FORCE. SINCE THIS WAS APPROACH PURSUED IN PREPARATIONS BY TASK FORCE, IT WAS INDICATED TO AUDIBERT THAT SUCH APPROACH WAS TASK FORCE PREFERENCE AND THAT HE SHOULD PROCEED TO ORCHESTRATE BRIEFINGS AS SOON AS FIRM ITINERARY PROVIDED, BRIEFINGS WERE TO BE BY FAC EXPERTS, I.E., AUDIBERT, ROBINET (LIVESTOCK); ERLADIN (RURAL DEVELOPMENT); MATON (GENIE RURAL); CASSEI (AGRONOMIST/ENGINEER); AS WELL AS BY REPRESENTATIVES IB BRGM (HYDROLOGY AND GEOLOGY) AND IRAT. OTHER AGENCIES NOTED IN HELMAN DISCUSSIONS WITH MOORE AND HANRAHAN WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE INVITED. IF MEETING SHOULD NEED FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH CFDT, BDPA OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, FAC WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE IN ARRANGING MEETINGS. IF "COURTESY CALLS" WERE DESIRED WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, EMBASSY WOULD SET THEM UP AFTER TEAM'S ARRIVAL. ADVISE WHETHER TEAM NOW FEELS THIS APPROACH RESULTS INDISPENSABLE IMISSIONS. SEPARATE MEETINGS WILL BE SET UP WITH CAISSE CENTRALE AND BCEAO, BUT FOR ONLY 1 OR 2 TEAM MEMBERS. ADVISE NAMES.

2. PUSSANT, ERLADIN AND MATON ARE CURRENTLY IN OUAGADOUGOU, WHERE IT APPEARS THEIR DEPARTURE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL PERHAPS AS LATE AS FRIDAY. THEREFORE, TASK FORCE CONTACTS WITH GOF PRIOR SEPT 17 AND PERHAPS SEPT 18 WOULD BE INOPPORTUNE. AUDIBERT NOTED DESIRABILITY THAT TEAM ARRIVE SUFFICIENTLY AFTER END OF OUAGADOUGOU MEETINGS TO DIGEST RESULTS AND HAVE TEAM SERVE AS LOGICAL FOLLOW ON. WOULD APPRECIATE NAMES AND BRIEF BIODATA MEMBERS OF FINAL TEAM; AND ITINERARY ASAP.

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3. AUDIBERT VIEWS TEAM VISIT AS TECHNICAN-TECHNICIAN BRIEFINGS. IN VIEW PUSSANT'S EXPRESSED INTEREST PER REF (A), WE WILL ARRANGE MEETING FOR FEI AND PERHAPS COX WITH PUSSANT, THIS MEETING WILL BE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN IS IMPRESSIONS OF OUAGADOUGOU MEETING AND TO DISCUSS FOLLOW ON COOPERATION IN GENERAL RPT GENERAL TERMS. CLEAR AUDIBERT PREFERS THAT WORKING COOPERATON FOR THIS ACTIVITY BE HANDLED

THROUGH HIMSELF.

4. RE TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS, IN VIEW SIZE OF TEAM; EASE OF MOVEMENT IN PARIS AND OTHER HEAVY BURDENS ON EMBASSY SUPPORT:

A. TEAM WILL NOT RPT NOT BE MET AT AIRPORT. ON RECEIPT ITINERARY, WILL CABLE INFORMATION ON HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND DIRECTIONS, IF ANY REQUIRED;

B. EMBASSY VEHICLES ARE NOT RPT NOT BEING RESERVED FOR TEAM. EMBASSY VEHICLES MAY BE RESERVED FOR SELECT NEEDS. COMMISSARY HAS SIMCA 1301 RENTAL VEHICLES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE ON WEEKLY RATE ONLY (\$72.00). ADVISE IF ANY ARE TO BE RESERVED. OTHERWISE, ASSUME MISSION WILL USE TAXIS OR LEASE COMMERCIAL VEHICLES;

C. TRANSLATION SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE, BUT ARE EXPENSIVE. MME LHUILLIER AND HELMAN WILL BE AT FULL DISPOSITION OF TASK FORCE. ADVISE IF FURTHER NEEDS ENVISIONED;

D. HOPING FIND TEMPORARY SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE WHEN NEEDED WITH EMBASSY DURING TEAM VISIT, IF NOT, ADVISE WHETHER TEAM WISHES ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE TO HIRE SECRETARIAL HELP ADDITIONAL TO MS. PINCKETT. OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FOR TEAM BEING INSTALLED IN GEP OFFICES.

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AF DROUGHT

AIDAC: YAOUNDE, NIAMEY, DAKAR FOR RDI'S; OUAGADOUGOU FOR
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5. AUDIBERT DESCRIBED TEAM AS "HEAVY" AND REMARKED ON
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IMPLICATIONS LACK OF FRENCH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY AND ABSENCE
OF FAMILIARITY WITH AREA OF MANY TEAM MEMBERS. SPECIFICALLY
POSED NEED TO FIND WORKING CONSTRUCTED WITHIN FRENCH TECHNICIANS
IN INDIVIDUAL STATES COULD PROVIDE MEANINGFUL HELP TO COUNTER-
PARTS ON TEAM. AUDIBERT STATED THAT TEAM WOULD NEED TO DEFINE
SMALLER UNITS WITH WHICH FAC FIELD TECHNICIANS COULD ACCOMPLISH
WORKING ARRANGEMENT. AUDIBERT STATED THAT DURING MEETING IN
PARIS, INDIVIDUALS IN EACH COUNTRY WOULD BE IDENTIFIED
TO COOPERATE WITH TEAM.

6. AUDIBERT NOTED IMPORTANCE SHALEL TASK FORCE CONTACT FED
WHILE IN EUROPE. SUGGESTED THAT FED OFFICIALS WORKING ON
DROUGHT COME TO PARIS TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FEI
TEAM. IDEA WAS RAISED WITH USED, REF C, BUT DO NOT YET KNOW
WHETHER IT WILL BE WORKABLE. IF NOT, CONSIDER ESSENTIAL THAT
ONE OR TWO TEAM MEMBERS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING FEI OR COX,
TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS TO TALK WITH FED. HELMAN WILL PROBABLY
TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS THURS OR FRI TO DISCUSS APPROACHES THIS
AND MIT CONTACTS WITH USEC. REQUEST PRIORITY ADVISE WHETHER
AID/W WISHES TO OFFER TO FINANCE TRAVEL AND PER DIEM COSTS
FOR FED PARTICIPANTS.

7. AUDIBERT'S REACTION TO MIT CONTRACT WAS PRIMARILY ONE OF SURPRISE AT MAGNITUDE OF UNDERTAKING. AT FIRST, HE EXPRESSED UNCERTAINTY REGARDING WHY PREPARATION OF TEAMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FUTURE STUDY WOULD REQUIRE MORE HAN A BRIEF EFFORT. AFTER AN EXPLORATION OF (1) INFORMATION SCREENING AND SYNTHESIS; AND (2) PRELIMINARY IDEA/SELECTIVITY ASPECTS OF APPROACH, AUDIBERT INDICATED CONCERNS ABOUT MAGNITUDE OF TASK AND POSSIBILITY OF NON-CONSENSUS OF APPROACH AT THE FORTHCOMING DONORS MEETING ON LONG TERM PLANNING. THEREFORE, SOME DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON WHAT MIGHT READISTICALLY BE EXPECTED BY JANUARY. FOCUS THEN TURNED TO DESIRABILITY OF CLOSE EXCHANGE AND PREFERABLY COOPERATION/PARTICIPATION OF FRENCH. NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR COOPERATION WERE MADE. AUDIBERT SAW BIG ADVANTAGE IN HAVING FRENCH ORGANIZATIONS CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH MIT AS WELL AS DESIRABILITY OF RATIONAL APPROACH BEFORE SPENDING LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY ON ZONE. HE HAD NUMEROUS RESERVATIONS WHICH HE DID NOT ARTICULATE, PREFERING TO REFLECT UPON SUBJECT AND TO DISCUSS WITH PUSSANT AND PROBABLY OTHERS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. WE PLAN DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH AUDIBERT
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AT END OF WEEK OR ON MONDAY. WISH EMPHASIZE THAT AUDIBERT REACTION WAS NOT RPT NOT NEGATIVE, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT FURTHER EXPLORATION IS IN ORDER.

8. THERE IS CLEARLY NEED FOR MIT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH FED AS WELL AS WITH FRENCH. PER REF C, HELMAN AND MARTIN AGREED THAT FED PRSONS WHO WOULD ATTEND PARIS MEETING NOT LIKELY BE SAME PERSONS WITH WHOM MIT SHOULD MAKE INITIAL HIGH LEVEL CONTACT. THEREFORE, BELIEVE INDISPENSABLE MIT PLAN A VISIT TO BRUSSELS. THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY EAGELSON ON HIS WAY FROM FORT LAMY TO US (IF THIS ARRANGEMENT STILL FIRM); BY DELAYING EAGELSON DEPARTURE TO AFRICA BY PERHAPS ONE DAY OR BY SEPARATE TRIP.

9. MIT CONTACTS WITH FRENCH EXPECTED TO BE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF SAHEL TASK FORCE. HAVE NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THIS WITHIN GOF. MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT ARRIVAL OF SOUSOU, PROPOSED PARA 4 OF REF D, SHOULD NOT OCCUR UNTIL AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH AUDIBERT. IT MAY ALSO BE DESIRABLE THAT OTHER HIGHER LEVEL CONTACTS, FOR WHICH EAGELSON WOULD SEEM PREFERABLY PARTICIPANT, OUGHT TAKE PLACE BEFORE FULL ADVANTAGE MAY BE TAKEN OF SOUSOU VISIT. ON RECEIPT SAHEL TASK FORCE ITINERARY WILL, CABLE FURTHER COMMENTS.

10. SEPTELS FOLLOW ON MOVEMENT AND REPLACEMENT OF FTOS (MAJOR CEREALS) AND ON AUDIBERT'S VIEWS ON FRENCH STRATEGY AS DISCUSSED WITH PUSSANT, REF A (WILL BE NOTAL).

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